

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A silicone rubber having very high tear propagation resistance, containing an effective amount of structurally modified, vinyl-modified hydrophobic pyrogenic silica having a surface area, as measured by BET, between 10 and 1000 m.²/g as reinforcing filler.
2. (Currently amended) The silicone rubber according to claim 1, wherein the structurally modified hydrophobic pyrogenic silica filler has a surface area, as measured by BET, between 25 and 400 m.²/g.
3. (Previously Presented) The silicone rubber according to claim 1, wherein the silicone rubber is a liquid silicone rubber.
4. (Previously presented) The silicone rubber according to claim 1, wherein the structurally modified hydrophobic pyrogenic silica has a compacted bulk density of at least approximately 120 g/l.
5. (New) The silicone rubber according to claim 1, wherein the structurally modified hydrophobic pyrogenic silica has a compacted bulk density of at least approximately 120 g/l but less than about 266 g/l.